

REMARKS

This is meant to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed April 26, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Species I: not shown - supporting and reinforcing means disposed within subunits.

Species II: not shown - supporting and reinforcing means disposed between outer surface and coating layer.

Species III: not shown - supporting and reinforcing means disposed upon outer surface and integral to coating layer.

Upon election of Species I-III, the Examiner further stated that Applicant was further required under 35 USC 121 to elect between the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

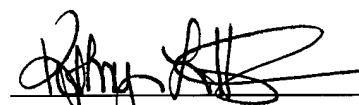
Species A: Fig. 20 - irrigant passing means a tube

Species B: Fig. 17 - irrigant passing means a channel

Applicant respectfully elects Species I-B, and claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-11 which are readable thereon. Claims 3, 4 and 6 are currently withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species. However, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5 and 8-11 are generic for the species listed herein above, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and rejoinder of claims 3, 4 and 6 upon allowance of a generic claim.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or the remarks contained herein, Applicant's agent would welcome the opportunity to discuss such matters with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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